The number of habitations benefited in the remaining tranches would be known once the project proposals are prepared by the State at a later date.

Loan from World Bank for roads in rural areas

†3987. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan from the World Bank has been received for connecting rural habitations with roads;

(b) if so, the amount of loan so far sanctioned by the World Bank;

(c) the total volume of the loan and names of States with projects being constructed therein; and

(d) by when each of these projects is targeted to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. For implementing projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), World Bank Loan amounting to US $ 400 million has also been obtained for rural roads project. The date of loan agreement is October, 2004. The loan is being utilized for the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The expected date for closure of the Agreement is 31st March, 2010 by which time most of the World Bank funded projects should be completed.

Implementation of Land Reform Act

†3988. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to implement the Land Reform Act effectively, to distribute the surplus land among the poor and to provide facility to the landless workers for formation of their organization to protect their interests;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Land and its management falls within the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18 of State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in this field is only of an advisory and coordinating nature. However, implementation of land reforms programmes is reviewed from time to time at various fora, including Conferences of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of States and UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development. The State Governments have, *inter-alia*, been requested from time to time for distribution of ceiling surplus land, Govt. wasteland and Bhoodan land to the eligible rural poor by preparation of action plans, and to complete the task by undertaking special drives.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. As per the information received from the States/UTs, on implementation of the land ceiling laws, an area of 68.59 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 59.98 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 49.68 lakh acres has been distributed to 55.34 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 15 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, 153.22 lakh acres of Govt. wasteland, and 16.66 lakh acres of Bhoodan land, have been distributed to the eligible rural poor.

State-wise package of village industries

†3989. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any system has been developed in co-ordination with the representatives of other Ministries and States for preparing State-wise package of village industries to provide decisive job to the villagers in the village itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government on its suitability and possibility;

(d) whether there is any plan/mechanism for making such system in States and providing research oriented consultation to them; and

(e) the State-wise lists of the work done in the said direction during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government is supplementing the development and promotion of village industries by State Governments by implementing various developmental schemes. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing a Central sector credit-linked subsidy programme for assisting the entrepreneures in establishing village industries units in rural areas and small towns.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Developing centres of excellence in nano technology

3990. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is discouraging duplication of research in the areas of nano technology and is formulating an integrated approach to develop centres of excellence in nano technology across the country;

(b) if so, whether any mission bound management structure with a well defined blue print has been taken up for consideration;

(c) if so, whether the above measures are adequate to catch up with the progress made in other countries; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.